

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at the Brown County Sheriff's Office, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, WI.

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**Present:** Chair Buckley, Supervisor Zima, Supervisor Clancy, Supervisor Nicholson  
**Excused:** Supervisor LaViolette  
**Also Present:** Chad Weinger, Al Klimek, Sheriff Gossage, Todd Delain, Cullen Peltier, Paul Gazdik, Brent Miller, David Lasee, Tom Miller, Neil Basten, Michele Conard

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick Buckley at 11:03 a.m.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to approve agenda.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of October 15, 2014.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to approve minutes.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public.** None.

**1. Review minutes of:**

**a. Criminal Justice Coordinating Board (September 17, 2014).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Fire Investigation Task Force General Membership (September 18, 2014).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**c. Local Emergency Planning Committee – LEPC (November 11, 2014).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**d. Brown County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting (July 17, 2014).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file.**

**Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Communications**2. Communication from Supervisor La Violette re: To determine the reorganization of the Medical Examiner's Office – staffing, office expenses, etc. Referred from November 6<sup>th</sup> County Board.**

Director of Administration Chad Weininger informed that there were discussions on the County Board floor during the budget debates on whether or not the Medical Examiner's (ME) office should go from Forensics Pathologist or Pathologist Chief Medical Examiner or keep the current system they had. He believed that was Supervisor La Violette's intent with this communication.

Right now there were a couple options depending on which way the County Board would like to move forward. The Chief Medical Examiner Al Klimek will be retiring December 30, 2014 and then they will have to appoint an Interim. It was a delicate situation because they would like to get out there to start looking for a replacement Chief Medical Examiner, the question was should they be looking for a Chief Medical Examiner that was certified and had the background to provide the services or should the county go down the path of hiring a Chief Pathologist Forensic Chief Medical Examiner. They could put out a request for a possible pool of applicants for a Chief Medical Examiner with a pathologist background and see what was out there. In talking with some other communities, it had taken them at least one to two years to recruit for them. Right now they should also put out a posting to fill the position, that way when the hiring committee came together, they could make a determination based on that application whether or not there was a good qualified candidate that could fill the ME's position or whether or not there should be a medical pathologist depending on what came back so at that time they could make that decision. If in fact they found a Pathologist they liked, they could petition the County Board to change the Table of Organization to have that. He felt time was of the essence that they needed some direction to keep the ball rolling so they weren't out six months without an ME.

Zima felt it was pertinent that they make a decision on what direction they wanted to go. He felt they should go in the direction of a Forensic Pathologist. He felt hiring a new ME would put them on the track of continuing as they had been continuing which he felt was unsatisfactory. The business of not wanting to operate with an Interim, they had operated with interims for a long time in the past. He felt they had taken a step backward in prior years as they went from a Coroner to a Medical Examiner's office, it gave up a lot of authority for someone totally neutral to make decisions about deaths. It passed by a small margin, the whole argument was that they were going to do something more professional for Brown County. They did have two Forensic Pathologists on board, which they found in a short amount of time, that did work out for one reason or another. There was a growing population, growing number of deaths and a continuing decrease in numbers of autopsies, which were very important. It was always economics that was carrying the day, they had a ME that went along with what Administration wanted, and feeling there was just no need. They had to decide what was important to their community. He was totally opposed to finding a new Director.

Clancy believed it was time they moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and go with a Forensic Pathologist and that person would be the Director of that office and everyone would be subordinate to that person in that position.

Medical Examiner Al Klimek informed that they did make a decision back in 2000 to transition from an elected Coroner to a Medical Examiner. It was the board's wishes at that time to have the

Department Head as a Forensics Pathologist. They did hire that person and the first individual didn't work out for more legitimate reasons than the second one. Either way they ended up coming back to the current model that they had right now. When looking at the two models that they were discussing, the current model was a non-physician ME as the Department Head and underneath was the Deputy ME or ME Investigators. That person relied on a forensic pathologist to perform autopsies for the county on request. They do utilize Dr. Mark Witeck primarily; he was a Board Certified Forensic Pathologist and had been working and doing autopsies for Brown County for about 12 years. He was always available for consultation and they often had phone communications with him and running things by him. He technically worked for Brown County just not a full-time basis and did not receive a salary and fringe, which is where they saved on the money.

The next model, as they had throughout the 2000's, the Forensic Pathologist was the Chief Medical Examiner, under that person was the Chief Deputy but also the operations person, the person that attended meeting, took care of personnel things, scheduling, media. He believed doctors were doctors and they wanted to be the person in the morgue doing the examinations and that was their primary function. Most of the physicians that were forensic pathologists, that he talked to on a day to day basis really didn't like this part of the job and would prefer to have someone running interference for them. The bad part about Forensic Pathologists, there were only about 600 nationwide. He felt to do the job correctly, if they had their way of having every place covered by a Forensic Pathologist it would require about 2,000-2,500 available. There were about eight in the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee having a majority of them, they had a Fellowship program so they trained people. Dane had two and Fond du Lac had two, they were an offshoot of the old Milwaukee program.

Klimek informed that he had been having conversations with Dr. Kelley Doug, who he had admired greatly, a very good Forensic Pathologist, about the possibilities of Brown and Fond du Lac County sharing the services of their two Forensic Pathologists. He felt financially they were strapped covering the costs of those people. Dr. Doug was going to go to his County Board to see if it was something they might want to look at as far as a partnership went. If Brown County would partner with Fond du Lac, there were two things he talked about, their leadership and the fact that their Forensic Pathologist would be the Chief Medical Examiner for Brown, Door and Oconto County, secondly, the autopsies, as much as they possibly could, would be done in Brown County because their autopsies involved a lot of law enforcement and other observers that were a part of the investigation. For the county to have law enforcement, all their detectives had to constantly drive back and forth to Fond du Lac County which would be cost prohibited as well. This was something he would promote. As for Dane County, Klimek was unsure where Dane sat, if they were in a position to offer oversight. As far as field investigation, that was still going to remain the current staff that they had, that was the model across the nation. They had ME's, field death investigators that collected info, made observations, took photographs and bring it back to the office to share with the people that were going to be the decision makers of the cause and manner of death, that part of the model stayed about the same.

There were 72 counties in the State of Wisconsin, currently 42 counties remained elected Coroner, 30 counties had transitioned to the Medical Examiners position in lieu of a Coroner and of those 30 counties that had ME's, 4 were Forensic Pathologist. The rest were non-physician ME Department Heads. The whole profession had transitioned a lot in the last 20 years, death investigations were a lot different than now being that they were higher trained, higher certified. There was no

certification back then, now there was education, tests, certification and ongoing. They do bring a higher level of abilities to the table. That in part was why some of the numbers as far as autopsies had diminished over the years but the reason being was that they had a better understanding of what was going on out there. What they used to autopsy didn't necessarily have to be autopsied now because as Certified Medical Legal Death Investigators they had the ability to gain that information on their own behalf. Other things that weren't around back then, such as donations, if someone donated their heart for heart valves, if they suspected there was a heart attack, years ago they would do an autopsy, now the heart was donated and they would get a pathology report free from Atlanta Georgia from the Recovery Center. In essence they were getting an autopsy of the heart without involving a local pathologist. They had a lot more available to them. Should they or could they be doing more autopsies, he wouldn't argue that. He believed, in the last eight years, which he talked to the Executive about, it had really been driven to them about the dollars, more for less. He would guarantee that in this business that didn't really work. They could trim and trim but eventually they were going to start making decisions based upon finances and by making the best decisions. They were not an island and everyone was making those same decisions right now. The economy was recovering, was this the time to more or better invest in their Death Investigation Program, Klimek agreed with them. He liked the model of Chief Medical Examiner being a Forensic Pathologist, which would be great. If they had to share resources, he felt that was another great model, that's why Oconto and Door joined Brown County. They were sharing their resources of their office. It was going to take time and he felt they really needed to make sure that they got the right person.

Klimek provided copies of the different models in which he spoke to (attached).

Weininger reiterated that there were four options before them. Stay with the current model, go with the Forensics Pathologist at the Chief Medical Examiner, use Dane or Fond du Lac, contract with them to share resources as the Chief Medical Examiner and rely on their staff and the fourth due to not knowing how long it may take to hire a Chief Medical Forensic Pathologist, request for a pool of candidates as well as look for a Certified ME to see what came in, they could get a stellar candidate but they won't know until they try.

Zima felt the only thing that was important in the past was saving money not finding deaths that were improper. He felt they had to get back on the track of doing what the position was meant to do. The cost, he didn't believe, if it was \$100,000-\$200,000 more, was that really a lot of money in a county that was as big as Brown which had a bigger population, that they should somehow sacrifice a number of autopsies and miss a couple illegal deaths because the economy came first, he didn't stand in that camp. Zima felt they needed to move forward with a Forensic Pathologist.

Klimek wanted to clarify, as far as their staffing, it was very professional, and they were all medical people. All of their Deputy Medical Examiners were either paramedics or nurses and had been for a long time. The other thing was, they were certified by the American Board of Medical Legal Death Investigators, which was the gold standard as far as non-physician Coroners and Medical Examiners. They brought professionalism, training, dedication to the table and they made wise and sound decisions. The Forensic Pathologist was the tool in the toolbox, they were there to open up the body and find disease or injury and then you add all the rest of the investigation on to that to come to that final conclusion and cause or matter of death. That was being done appropriately now. If they talked to the District Attorney's office and a lot of law enforcement, they will wholeheartedly agree

that, although he knew law enforcement would like them to see more autopsies, they do it right and they get convictions on a very high if not 100% of the time, they just don't miss on those things, they had their stuff together. It wasn't that they were doing a bad job but if you had that tool in your toolbox that was the benefit. Klimek reiterated that they did utilize a Forensic Pathologist right now.

Buckley stated that after the conversations he had with staff and different users of the office, to him, if they were going to change the direction of the department, they didn't have enough information yet. He wholeheartedly agreed that they don't just put someone in the position to keep status quo. He wouldn't have a problem putting in an interim for 90 days and reevaluating after that time. He felt staff had to go back and really give them more defined options of what could work in this county and the actual cost to it. They needed more concrete numbers to go to the County Board with. He suggested giving staff 90 days.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to appoint an Interim for 90 days and have Administration look at the financial options and put together a presentation to be held at an evening Public Safety meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to open the floors to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Andrew Pfotenhauer**

Andrew Pfotenhauer thanked the committee and stated that this had been a 20 year engagement. The fact that they moved the money back to Public Safety, that's where it needed to be. This was an opportunity for them to ultimately shine. He had heard the same comments from some of the same supervisors for 20 years. Brown County was changing and it was high time to look into the future, they couldn't talk about the past anymore, the future leads. He could tell they had no direction. There were four major hospitals in the area, they all had Pathology Departments, and they could negotiate contracts. Brown County should have the option of having a committee that was dedicated with real professionals in this field. He felt the District Attorney's office, the Sheriff's Department, the general public, and the 12 funeral homes would all have an opinion on what they would like to see from their Medical Examiner. The ME believed they should be led by a doctor's office, the County Board was going to put that person in there and that person was going to be licensed. Pfotenhauer informed that he would no longer have to go through the Executive Committee to get to the doctor to make a complaint because that person held a license and was held to a higher standard and a higher accountability. The general public would now have access to the Chief Medical Examiner's office when there was a complaint to be filed, and they filed on the license. This was imperative to move forward. He was not talking about an elected positions or an appointment from an Executive, who turns out to be his buddy in the first place. He wasn't implying it, just suggesting that it could happen. Those days are over. Green Bay was potentially the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in the state. It didn't take a rocket scientist to look up other cases in other counties in relationship to the midgrade system that they currently had. He reiterated that they needed to get a committee that made sense with the major players involved, including disgruntled people with the office and have the ME join in on the committee. If they wanted answers to what the ME's office should look like, they will get them. They needed to get a ME that had some passion for what they did and the same vision that they can make something occur in Brown County. These people do autopsies not for the sake of doing autopsies; they do them to advance science. They were also publishers and publish their findings. They share amongst one another in research and data. They

were going to lead and not follow. That's what their candidate was going to look at. He agreed that they needed an Interim for about 90 days to cover some of this but they can't keep going backwards. They had their opportunity, the money was there. Their current ME was stating that the direction was always about the issue of money. If they had testimony that came forward, it would be disastrous for some of them on their seats because they had been there long enough and the board overwhelmingly pushed in that vote to send this back to this committee for them to take a look at it. So don't fail. It won't go smooth. It didn't go smooth the first two times but it raised the bar, and when it raised the bar the public had a chance to file a complaint against a licensed doctor that failed them or that office failed them. That was imperative. The public deserved more. They were talking about a Captain that was going to come down and drive the ship, a totally different credential. Brown County deserved a chance. It will be their doctor that was on the television screen and it was way past time now. They should be proud of that because they were moving forward and can't keep going backwards. Neither one of those systems were efficient or cost effective. When you compared what County Rescue got paid verses what funeral homes were offered in relationship to those removals, it was insulting. They haven't had a change or raise to move bodies in years, it was ridiculous. It was not the funeral homes obligation to have to do the county's work. It was high time, they had 20 years to do it, they were down to the last month to get on board and start to straighten this out and not leach off the rest of them that were out there. He had four properties and he didn't owe everyone in Brown County his services for free. If they wanted them to make the removals, then they should pay them. This wasn't about Klimek and him, he made it very clear that the office of the Medical Examiner was broken and it wasn't coming from him exclusively, it was coming from the people he saw when he made the removals, handled the cases, heard their complaints, and heard how the cases went. They batted this around for well long enough and they had to give this an opportunity. Put restrictions in there, a caveat that they were going with a 90 day interim, and get a dynamite committee that will bring answers, give direction, and formulate a new plan.

**Motion made by Supervisor Clancy, seconded by Supervisor Zima to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Buckley felt Pfotenhauer brought up an interesting point. Buckley had this conversation with the Sheriff, the Executive, and the Police Chief about getting an advisory committee together in reference to this. He reiterated that this wasn't something they could decide to today, there had to be more thought as to how this was going to be put out. Get a presentation and make everyone known.

Nicholson informed that he wanted Pfotenhauer involved in the creation of an advisory committee. He would like it noted for the record of his request to have him start recruiting individuals as soon as possible. Clancy would like to make sure that this included people from the hospitals.

Zima further discussed his concerns with regard to the numbers and having Administration come up with them. Buckley responded that this was what their committee was here for, what they were supposed to do, take a look at it. If they needed to increase the dollars, they will increase it but they needed an outline of how it would be played out. He spent a lot of time looking into this and it was not something they could decide overnight. Weininger interjected that at the beginning of this presentation; he said specifically that he would lay out some options for their consideration and that it was completely up to the County Board so there was no intent on his part to steer this down a

road of impropriety. The other fact was that if they would like to set up a committee and create some different structures, that was fine, set them up.

*Although shown in proper format here, Item #17 was taken at this time.*

**\*2a. District Attorney – Resolution re: Change in Table of Organization for the District Attorney's Office (LTE Legal Assistant II).**

District Attorney David Lasee informed that in the budget there was an approval for two contracted positions, one was a contract Attorney and the other was a contract Legal Assistant. After the funding came into play, they sat down with the person who reviewed their contracts and with their budget person and they talked about whether or not it would be a good idea to add an LTE county position for the staff, not for the attorney because it was cheaper and because it was a wage increase for that employee but cheaper for the county and it would provide for more efficient service because they would be directly supervising her rather than using the outside service. They looked at the administrative fees that were associated with using the staffing service and they felt it was too high based on what they were doing considering they essentially recruited that employee and supervised the employee. The idea was to move it to the Table of Organizations on a limited basis for the staff person rather than use the staffing agency.

Buckley questioned if this needed to be renewed each year. Lasee responded that the resolution specifically stated that when funding went away, the position went away. Buckley questioned if they wanted to review this before the next budget or wait for the budget cycle. Nicholson suggested waiting. Zima felt it was obvious that it was a necessary position and suggested making it permanent. The workload was tremendous. Lasee responded that it may eventually be permanent but it may be best evaluated at budget time when they knew what the state intended to do and they will have those answers in July. HR Manager Brent Miller agreed with Zima and Lasee that it probably should be a full time position but the LTE position gave them the opportunity to truly evaluate the needs assessment.

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Zima to approve. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Public Safety Communications**

**3. Budget Status Financial Report for September and October, 2014.**

Public Safety Communication Director Cullen Peltier informed that their budget was still tracking okay. They had some personnel costs at the end of the year but they had savings in other areas that will match up so they should be okay with the budget yet.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Vacant Budgeted Positions – Public Safety Communications – Office Manager I – Vacated – 10/30/14. Referred to Public Safety & Executive Committee from November County Board.**

Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier informed that their previous Office Manager I retired at the end of October and they were looking to fill the position. Buckley had asked that it be brought back as there were questions, Peltier had sense provide a position description. Right now they were getting by but things were piling up, they would like to fill the position as soon as possible.

Buckley questioned the title of Office Manager and pay of the position. What he read, this person did more of an Administrative Assistant type position as it didn't supervise anyone, etc.

Peltier believed the term Office Manager was a holdover from pre-Act 10 to keep them out of the union because of confidentiality and things like that. This position was in line with some of the other office Manager position that he had looked at. The pay was in line and some of those other positions were in the same position and didn't necessarily supervise anyone. He didn't think it was a matter of the supervision but the tasks they did, which was doing budgetary work for their department, such as reports, performance reports, tracking clothing allowance, etc.

Peltier added that he felt they needed to fill it relatively soon he was sharing the duties with his Assistant which was causing things to go to the backburner.

After further discussions, it was determined that Administrative Assistant would be a better title or Department Coordinator.

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve with the title change from Office Manager I to Department Coordinator. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Director's Report.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Sheriff**

**6. Budget Status Financial Report for October, 2014.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 7. Budget Adjustment Request (14-93): Any increase in expenses with offsetting increase in revenue.**
- 8. Budget Adjustment Request (14-96): Any increase in expenses with offsetting increase in revenue.**
- 9. Budget Adjustment Request (14-99): Any increase in expenses with offsetting increase in revenue.**
- 10. Budget Adjustment Request (14-101): Any increase in expenses with offsetting increase in revenue.**
- 11. Budget Adjustment Request (14-102): Any increase in expenses with offsetting increase in revenue.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to approve Items 7 - 11. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**12. Update on Contracted Services/Local inmate transports for 2015.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**13. Resolution Supporting Participation in 2015 County-Tribal Law Enforcement Grant.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. Sheriff's Report.**



**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file.  
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Clerk of Courts**

- 15. Budget Status Financial Report for October, 2014.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to receive and place on file.  
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate**

- 16. Budget Status Financial Report for September, 2014. *No motion made.***

**Medical Examiner**

- 17. 2014 Brown County Medical Examiner Activity Spreadsheet.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Zima, seconded by Supervisor Nicholson to receive and place on file.  
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Other**

- 18. Audit of bills. *No motion made.***
- 19. Such other matters as authorized by law.**
- 20. Adjourn.**

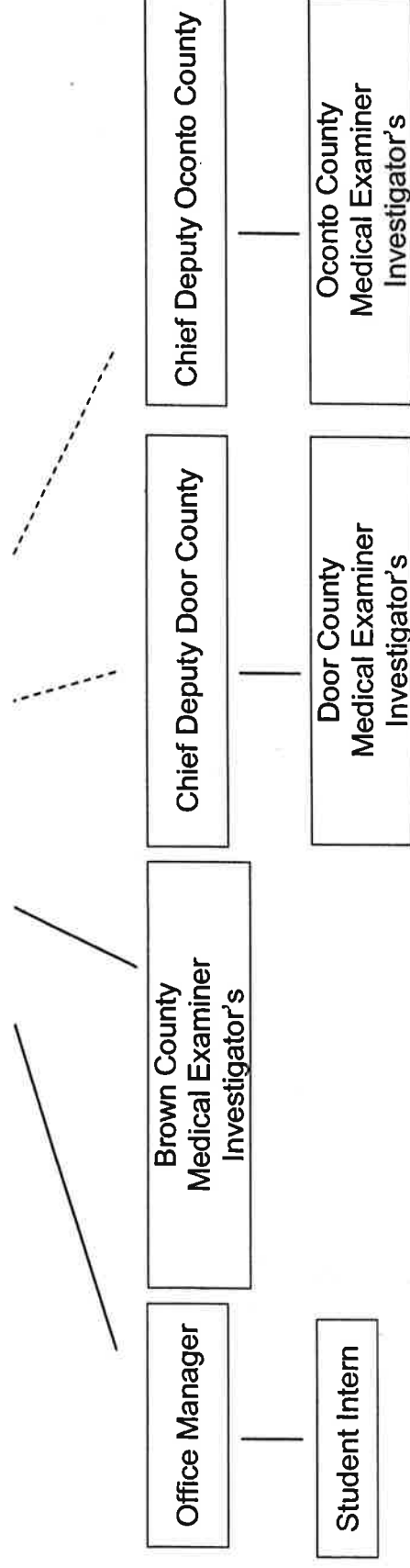
**Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Clancy to adjourn at 12:40 p.m.  
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein  
Recording Secretary

Forensic Pathologist Chief Medical Examiner  
(200k per year plus fringe)

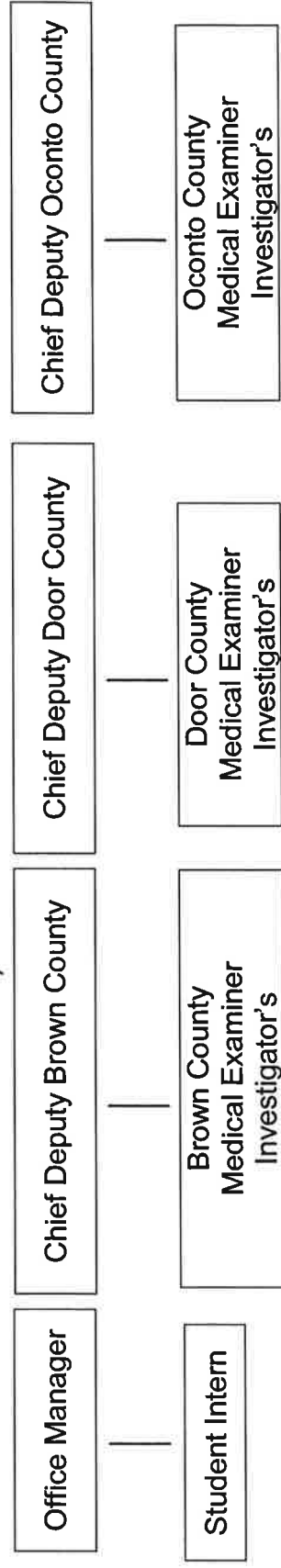
Operations Manager/Chief Deputy Medical Examiner  
(70k per year plus fringe)



With this model you can eliminate approximately 80k from account 5762 Medical Exams/autopsies/genetic test

There can be no anticipated increased revenue as the result of having a Forensic Pathologist on staff as we already account for revenue generated from other counties for doing autopsies on their behalf. We would have to successfully compete with other communities offering autopsy services in order to increase our revenue. Doing more autopsies for Brown County will not result in additional revenue.

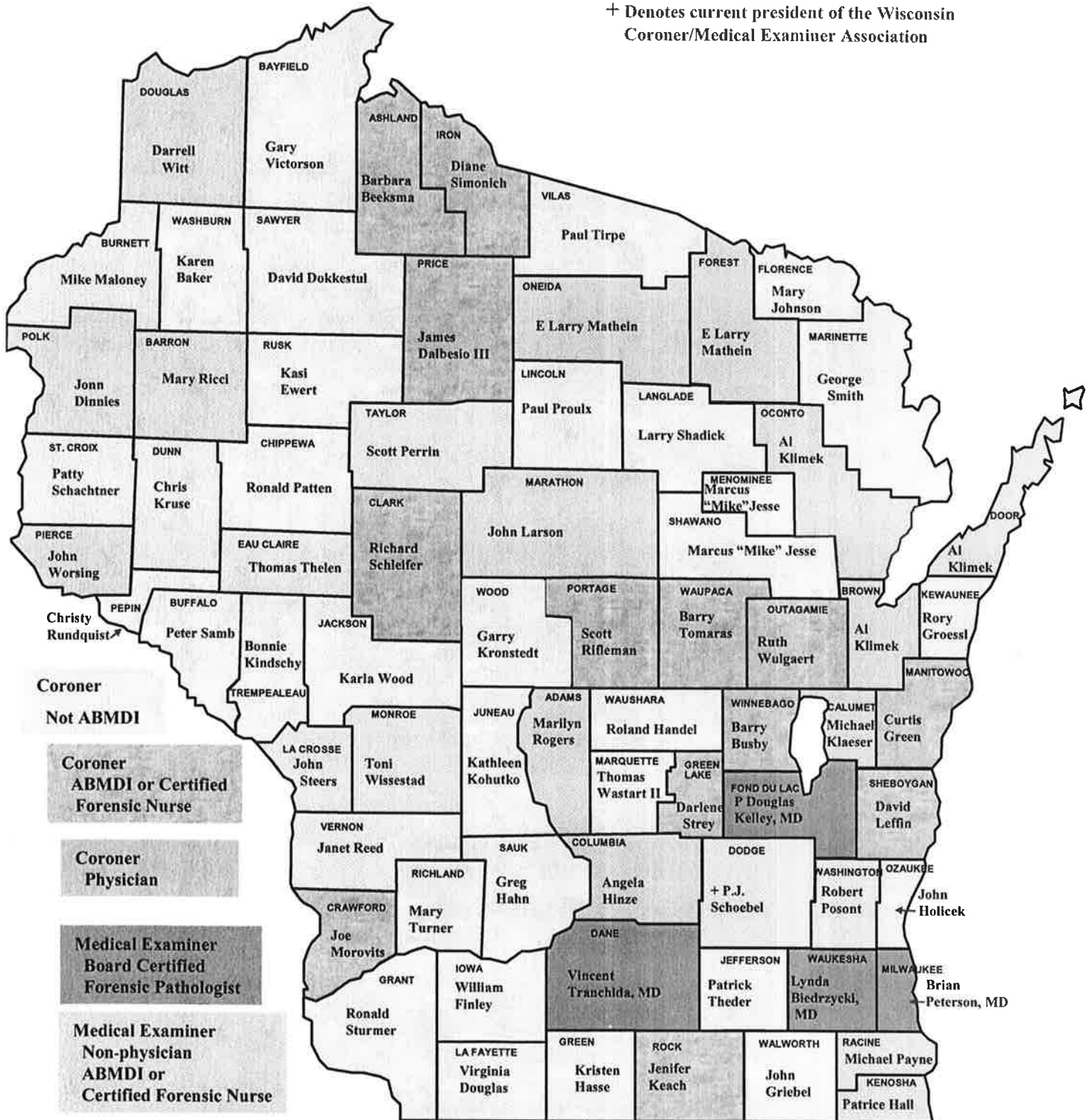
Non Physician Chief Medical Examiner  
(70k per year plus fringe)



# Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners

## May, 2013

+ Denotes current president of the Wisconsin  
Coroner/Medical Examiner Association



CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
Al Klimek D-ABMDI  
Brown/Door/Oconto County



*Brown County*

300 EAST WALNUT STREET  
PO BOX 23600  
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305-3600  
PHONE (920) 448-4185 FAX (920) 448-4186

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Under current Wisconsin law, the office of the Coroner is a constitutional elected office and therefore the requirements are more statutory than educational. The office of Coroner, like the office of Sheriff, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, etc. require the candidate to meet the requirements of the Election Board and then receive the majority of the votes cast in the particular election. Having said that the Coroner **should** have medical legal death investigation education and or credentials much like the Sheriff should have law enforcement education or credentials. I said should; as there is no LEGAL requirement and the voters decide.

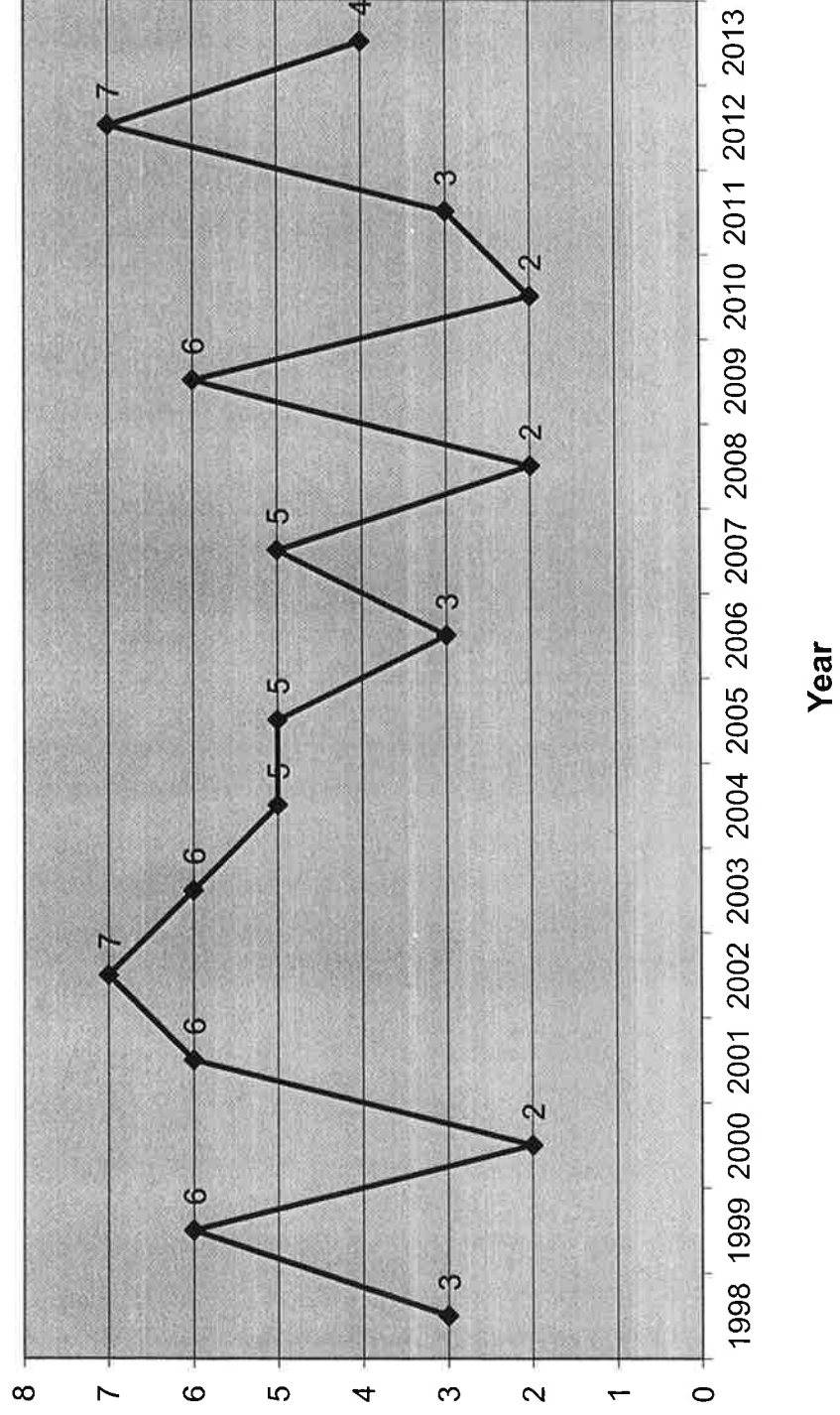
Counties also have the discretion to abolish the office of Coroner and establish a Medical Examiner system. The Medical Examiner is a hired employee of the county and therefore the County sets forth the job description and the necessary prerequisites and therefore the educational requirement. Currently in Wisconsin approximately 42 of the 72 counties are Coroner systems and 30 are Medical Examiner systems. There is no requirement for the Medical Examiner to be a physician in Wisconsin. Of the 30 Medical Examiner systems, 4 have Forensic Pathologists as their Chief Medical Examiner. The remaining 26 as well as all of the 42 Coroners are non-physician. 15 years ago there was only a handful of ME systems in the State, so the trend is for Counties to transition to a Medical Examiner system where they have control of who conducts the death investigations for them. Per statute a Coroner or Medical Examiner may not be a sworn Law Enforcement Officer or a Chief Officer of a Fire Department.

Under state statute either the Coroner or Medical Examiner determines the official cause and manner of death for anyone who dies under their jurisdiction. The **cause** of death defines the injury or disease causing end of life and the **manner** of death being the statistical classification the death falls within. Natural, suicide, homicide, accidental or in some rare cases, undetermined are the typical selections available. The person making those legal determinations should have knowledge of both medical and legal principles.

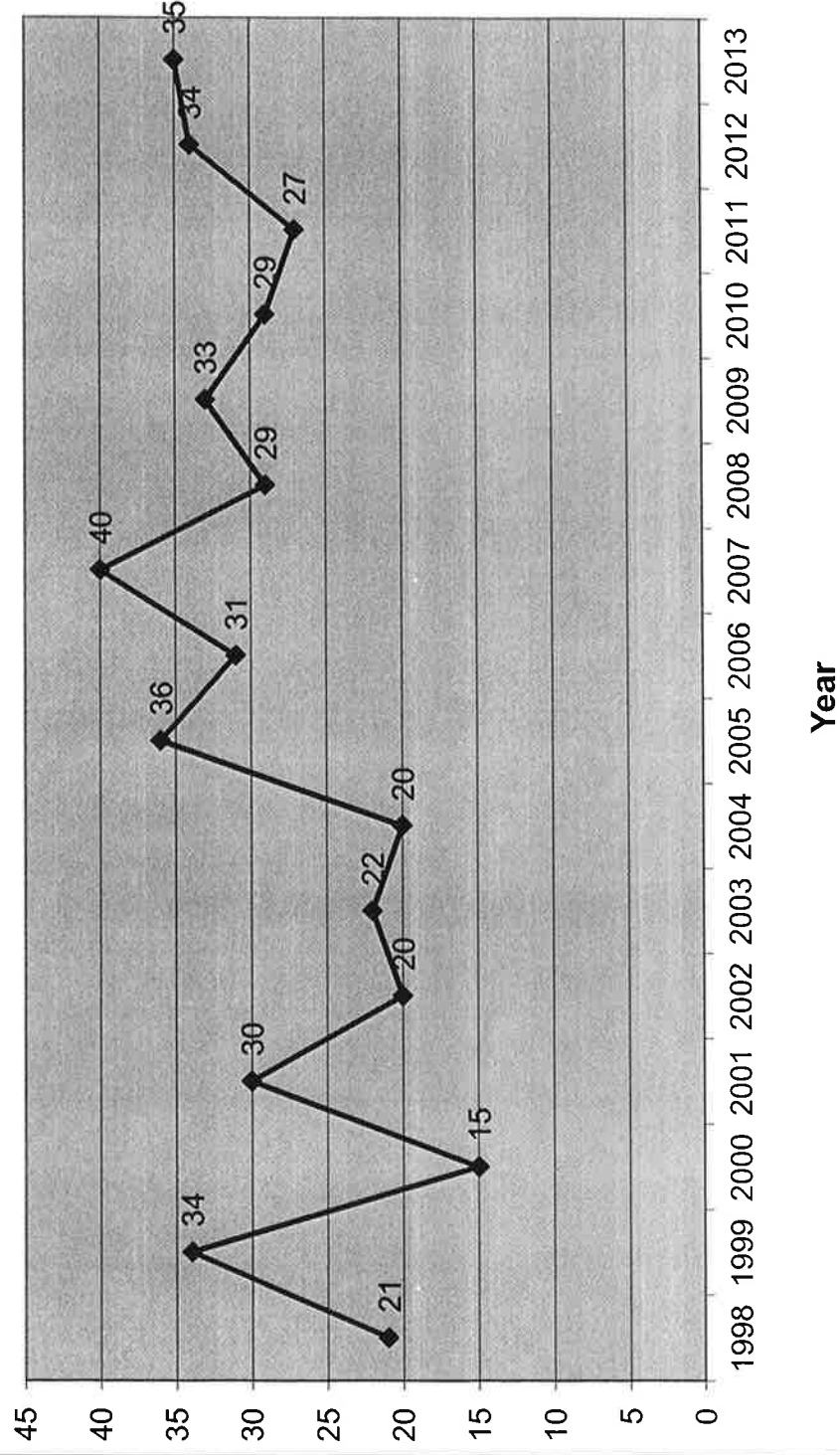
The current desired training and education for the Medicolegal Death Investigator is provided by the American Board of Medical Legal Death Investigators or ABMDI. Most of the counties in Wisconsin use this as their "gold standard" however the ideal candidate for a Medicolegal Death Investigator would have a combination of medical education and experience along with field death investigation experience. Above all, a successful Medicolegal Death Investigator is an impartial judge without ties to Law Enforcement or the judicial system and speaks only for the decedent.

A non-physician Coroner or Medical Examiner relies on many "tools" to determine cause and manner of death. An autopsy is just one tool. Toxicology, histology, knowledge of cardiology, anatomy and physiology etc. are other tools that are used daily. Death Investigation is a team effort and the successful Medicolegal Death Investigator knows his or her resources. Death Investigation is an ever evolving profession. Trained, experienced, certified death investigators serve across the United States on a daily basis without the title of Medical Doctor behind their name. This is necessary because there are only 600 or so Forensic Pathologists across the entire nation and they need to be working in the examination room.

## Homicides



## Suicides





## Green Bay PD, WI (utilizing the Brown County Radio System)

By Tim Richardson, MSI

During a recent visit to the Green Bay Police Department it was reported that the officers were hearing a “bonk” when trying to key up their radio’s. The locations seemed to vary and with the exception of being indoor a significant building bonk’s were not reproducible. The radios have both trunked and conventional channels programmed and scan was reported as not being used in all reported events. The coverage maps and previous testing have both shown that the system is operating as designed. Baycom has performed maintenance on the sites and their testing has also shown that the system is working correctly.

All indications are that technically the RF system appears to be working correctly BUT the Green Bay PD continues to experience random bonks. The next step was to evaluate the system performance data to see if we could identify an inbound/outbound or both issue. With Brown Counties assistance we received a report from Genesis regarding system performance which was also reviewed. In addition MSI pulled the raw data from ATIA for the last 6 reported instances of “bonks” minus Kamra Krueger which was missed. The officers that reported bonks were Raymond Berglund, Ricardo Escalante, Mike Rahn, Kris Thoreson, Brad Miller and Lt. Cain.

Genesis data was reviewed first and it showed a significant amount of “Audio Interrupts” and “Stealth Rejects” on this system. An “Audio Interrupt” occurs when Unit B tries to key up on the same TG where Unit A is either talking or had just finished talking or when a Quick PTT occurred. A Quick PTT occurs when someone presses the PTT for a very short period of time. Think of it as someone accidentally bumping of the PTT. This Quick PTT will assign a voice channel and the other users will not hear any audio because there is none. A “Stealth Reject” occurs when two radio’s key at almost the exact same time. The Zone Controller will choose the first one and assign the TG and a channel. The second radio will receive a “bonk” when this occurs. Both of these conditions are normal for any trunked system. It is also not uncommon for users coming from a Conventional system and going to a SmartZone (trunked) system to experience bonks associated with Audio interrupts and Stealth Rejects. Customer’s that previously had an Analog Trunked system that was configured to allow Audio Interrupts could also incur an increase in bonks because Audio Interrupts are “Not Allowed” by default in P25. Allowing Audio Interrupts in a P25 system will allow users to key up as they had previously but will also cause audio issues and complaints. Mixing two different digital signals creates poor audio which will sound more like digital noise or no audio at all.

Training officers about how the system and radio works together normally reduces these events.

In summary, after reviewing all of the data for the reported events the system appears to be working correctly. The data does not show any patterns that would cause “bonks” other than those discussed above.

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For detailed information please see below.

**Lt. Cain (ID 5700021)** – Reported 3 successive bonks on 9/30/14 @ ~2225 hrs.

- No audio was heard prior to keying
- 3 bonks, inside and outside of a mobile home

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/30/14 22:24:55]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5710022	DTF N/I Windorff	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
[09/30/14 22:24:56]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5700021	GB Lt Cain	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
	Windorff keyed up before Lt. Cain and got B DTF Tac-4 channel first. Lt. Cain would have received a "bonk" and would not have heard audio prior to keying.				
[09/30/14 22:25:53]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5710022	DTF N/I Windorff	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
[09/30/14 22:25:53]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5700021	GB Lt Cain	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
	Windorff and Lt. Cain keyed up very close to each other and Windorff was assigned TG first. Lt. Cain would have received a "bonk" and would not have heard audio prior to keying.				
[09/30/14 22:27:53]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5710023	DTF N/I Wysocki	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
[09/30/14 22:27:53]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5700021	GB Lt Cain	80025534	B DTF Tac-4
	Wysocki keyed up before Lt. Cain and got B DTF Tac-4 channel first. Lt. Cain would have received a "bonk" and would not have heard audio prior to keying.				

**Summary:** On all 3 occasions someone did a quick PTT which takes the voice channel for ~3 seconds. A quick PTT can be defined as someone pushing the PTT quickly and releasing. When this occurs no audio would have been heard by Lt. Cain because the voice channel was assigned and waiting for the person to talk. Normal Operation.

**Brad Biller (ID 5700012 reported but not found. Found ID 5710010 that matched name and timeframe)** – Reported radio continuously bonked while attempting to reach dispatch on channel C on 9/25/14 @ ~1600 hrs.

- No audio was heard prior to keying
- Occurred while w/in a mobile home
- Ended up calling dispatch via cell phone

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/25/14 16:04:12]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:04:28]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:04:29]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:04:30]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:21:53]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:21:55]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C

[09/25/14 16:22:01]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:22:15]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:22:29]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025912	BC LW EMG2
[09/25/14 16:22:32]	Mobility Update - Deregistration	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller		
[09/25/14 16:22:51]	Mobility Update - Unit Registration	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller		
[09/25/14 16:22:52]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:36:44]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:39:34]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:39:34]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:39:36]	Radio Status Traffic - Subscriber Reject	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/25/14 16:39:36]	Mobility Update - Deregistration	5710010	DTF N/I B Biller		

Summary: “#153, Secure Request made on Clear Only Group record” was the reason code for the Subscriber Rejects. On all occasions during the reported time Brad Biller was trying to key his radio in the “secure” mode while the TG itself was “clear” only. Normal Operation.

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**Raymond Berglund (ID 5700189)** – Reported radio would not allow officer to make transmission. Bumped off transmission on 9/9/14 @ ~1730 hrs.

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/09/14 17:26:24]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:26:28]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:26:28]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	10016	OP16	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:26:30]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:26:48]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:26:49]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:27:01]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:27:01]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	10016	OP16	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:27:05]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:13]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	10016	OP16	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:15]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:16]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:19]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	10016	OP16	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:28]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:29]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700189	Berglund	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:36]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:38]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	10016	OP16	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 17:28:41]	End Of Call			80025593	GB TTY 1D

Summary: Raymond Berglund was granted a channel for each request. Berglund appears to be having a conversation with dispatch during this time. Parts of the conversation were very short. Some calls were quick but no indication of a problem for this radio. Could the problem have been on another radio since there was no other activity during this timeframe for this ID?

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**Kris Thoreson (ID 5700179)** – Reported I tried to talk to dispatch outside the residence and the radio mad bonking noise several times before it connected with dispatch on 9/19/14 @ ~2359 hrs.

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/19/14 23:52:32]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700179	Thoreson	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/19/14 23:52:35]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/19/14 23:53:43]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025583	GB Swat-3
[09/19/14 23:53:55]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/19/14 23:54:11]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025583	GB Swat-3
[09/19/14 23:54:14]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/19/14 23:56:43]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/19/14 23:58:25]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025911	GB LW EMG1
[09/19/14 23:58:36]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/19/14 23:58:49]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025911	GB LW EMG1
[09/19/14 23:58:55]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/20/14 00:45:44]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/20/14 00:46:44]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700179	Thoreson	80025591	GB Main 1C

Summary: Kris Thoreson changed the TG (Talkgroup) on the radio 12 times in 8 minutes. If Kris tried to key up immediately after changing a channel then there is a very good chance that Kris would have received a “bonk”. Other than Kris changing TG’s often everything else looks normal.

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**Ricardo Escalante (ID 5700217)** – No complaint listed on log. On 9/21/14 @ 1921 hrs

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/09/14 19:18:14]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5700217	Escalante	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/09/14 19:20:58]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700217	Escalante	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/09/14 19:31:57]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700217	Escalante	80025591	GB Main 1C

Summary: No indication of a problem for this ID during this time. Could the problem have been on another radio since there was no other activity during this timeframe for this ID?

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**Mike Rahn (ID 5700058)** – Reported radio got a tone when attempting to call out w/subject detained....Radio did not transmit out, had to call out multiple times on 9/14/14 @ 2353 hrs.

Time	Message	UnitID	UnitID Alias	TG ID	TG Alias
[09/14/14 23:32:10]	Call Activity Update - Start of Call	5700058	Rahn	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/14/14 23:32:19]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700058	Rahn	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/14/14 23:32:35]	Call Activity Update - PTT-ID Update Active	5700058	Rahn	80025593	GB TTY 1D
[09/14/14 23:32:39]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700058	Rahn	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/14/14 23:36:44]	Mobility Update - Deregistration	5700058	Rahn		
[09/14/14 23:44:07]	Mobility Update - Unit Registration	5700058	Rahn		
[09/14/14 23:44:08]	Mobility Update - Group Affiliation	5700058	Rahn	80025591	GB Main 1C
[09/14/14 23:52:00]	Mobility Update - Deregistration	5700058	Rahn		

**Summary:** Mike Rahn turned off/on his radio 5 times within the hour and nothing was seen after 2353 hrs. No indication of a problem besides turning on and off the radio 5 times.

**Kamra Krueger (ID 5700193/5700087)** – Reported radio beeped when trying to transmit to dispatch on 9/14/12 @ 1540.

- ATIA data was not pulled for Kamra Krueger but Genesis data was available which is reflected below but for a different time than was reported.

09/14/2014 05:09:10 PM	1	1	1	Scraps Hill Simulcast	5700193	Krueger -Kamra	25591	GB Main 1C	Audio Interrupt
09/14/2014 05:14:46 PM	1	1	1	Scraps Hill Simulcast	5700087	Krueger -B	25804	InterOp-4	Stealth Reject

**Summary:** Based off of the Genesis records there are multiple events from Kamra that are either Audio Interrupts or experienced similar conditions as Lt. Cain did and described above (Stealth Rejects). Based on information available this appears to be Normal Operation.